

Looking at the Readings

The opening line of a very common prayer begins: "O God, who alone can probe the depths of the heart ..." and gives us an insight into the meaning and direction of the readings in the Mass today. Ecclesiasticus speaks of the Lord who is a judge yet hears the cry of the poor, the orphan, the widow, the humble and the virtuous. God understands the heart of the one who prays. The Responsorial Psalm is a prayer of thanks and praise to the God who hears our cries.

Today's Gospel, once seen as problematic, now must be seen in the light of God's promise to his people and the mercy that he bestows on the sinner. Tax collectors may have many actions which to be repentant; they were despised by their own people for being traitors and swindlers. Yet in the parable this man comes in humility and repentance. God alone can probe his heart and can hear the cry of the poor. Interestingly, the parable does not tell of the sins or virtues of the tax collector or the sins of the pharisee. Jesus does not highlight their actions but examines their hearts. Again, it is our relationships, our right relationships that are important in life and faith.



Fr. Des Welladsen

Resident/ Supply Priest from 10th Sept to 11 Dec

Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim

Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au

Mobile: 0450 185 021

Admin Officers: Joy Padilla/Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am - 1pm

St Mary's Parish Centre

224-230 Anstruther Street, Echuca

Ph: (03) 5482 1127

Email: admin@stmarysechuca.org.au

Website: www.stmarysechuca.org.au

Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle

E: pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au

M: 0409 826 336

Child Safety Officer: Mel Slattery

M: 0417 822 589

E: melslattery.home@gmail.com

Visitation Ministry Coordinator: Kath Quinn

M: 0439 101 282

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Communications and Events Coordinators:

Communications—Hannah Jurolan and Paul Tape

E: hcjurolan@gmail.com

Events—Cindy Narvasa

E: cindyaure.austria@gmail.com

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses: 27th - 31st October

Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass

25th & 26th October—Weekend Masses

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 9:30am Mass

Reconciliation: Ring Fr Des for an appointment 0429143093

Baptism: Every Second weekend of the Month

Weddings: By Appointment with the Parish Priest

Sophia Sisters: Every Monday 1:30pm (Parish Centre)

Men's Group: Every Saturday 9am (Parish Centre)

Playgroup: Every Friday 9am (Parish Centre)

Children's Liturgy: G'day Sunday

Sunday School: G'day Sunday

Ladies Drinks: 4th Wednesday 5:30pm (Parish Centre)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yorta Yorta Nation. This land is sacred, this land is gift, this land is thousands of years old. We acknowledge the immense beauty of this land and the dreams of the Yorta-Yorta People. We pay our respects to elders past and present and acknowledge the lessons the Yorta-Yorta people teach us about care, respect and justice for mother earth.

If you wish to assist in "further supporting the Parish" we offer different ways of giving... direct debit, credit card or planned giving envelopes. Please ring the office for more details.

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

St Mary's Echuca: BSB Number: 083-543

Account Number: 45-782-9206

Child Safety: Through our policies and practices, we protect the right of children to feel safe and to be safe. We promote the well-being and inclusion of all children. For more information, contact the parish office and look for the Child Safety Officer Mel Slattery.

PARISH CALENDAR

September, October, November: Fr Novie is on Sabbatical

30th October: 12.30pm Grade 3 Liturgy, Brigidine Centre
7th November: 9.00am Mary's Makers * 11.30 Adoration * 6.00pm Memorial Mass
13th November: 12.30pm Grade 2 Mass Brigidine Centre
18th November: 5.00pm Liturgy Meeting

6th December: Paint & Play, a creative and meaningful workshop, perfect for the Christmas season.

St Mary's Bereavement Support Group



Join Us for the Memorial Mass

Friday 7th November at 6pm
in St. Mary's Church

A Mass to remember our loved ones in thanksgiving.

To be followed by supper.
All parishioners welcome.



St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in Faith Together



Fellow Parishioners

As a Justice of the Peace, Chris will be available to witness documents used for official or legal purposes. Chris will be available from 9.30am to 10.30am each Wednesday in the Parish office. If you have further queries or questions please contact Julie Moyle on 0409 826 336 to discuss.



DRESS AS YOUR FAVOURITE SAINT

ALL KIDS, YOUTH AND SINGLES ARE INVITED TO JOIN

2 NOVEMBER 2025 | SUNDAY MASS



CASH FOR A CAUSE 2025

100 Tickets Available worth \$100 each

A FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARY'S PARISH HALL RENOVATION

There will be TWO winners of \$100, which will be drawn over four weeks, after Sunday Mass.

TWO winners on the 16th of November

TWO winners on the 23rd of November

TWO winners on the 30th of November

TWO winners on the 7th of December

All winning numbers will be returned for subsequent draws each week.

And GRAND PRIZE, ONE winner of \$1000 will be drawn at the Christmas Party on the 14th of December.

You may choose your number from 1-100 (first in first served).

All tickets must be paid in cash or direct credit

to a bank account (to be provided).

Parishioners may also purchase ONE TICKET between 2,3,4 or 5 people, etc.

For ticket sales, please Contact Margaret Hart (0419 506 254) or Julie Moyle (0409 826 336), tickets are available for purchase before or after Weekend Masses from the 4th of October until the 2nd of November 2025.

St Mary's Parish
ECHUCA
Growing in Faith Together

Celebrate Christ the King & Our Multicultural Mass!

Join us on November 22nd (6pm Saturday Vigil) & November 23rd (9:30am Sunday) as we celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King with a special Multicultural Mass that will highlight the vibrant tapestry of our parish community. This weekend is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our unity in faith through diverse expressions of liturgy, music and food.

Everyone is welcome! We invite all parishioners—regardless of background—to attend and experience the richness of our shared Catholic faith.

Please bring along a small plate of food that represents your country or culture of origin to share with our community at our cuppa afterwards. This is a wonderful chance to sample traditional foods from around the world and share stories with your neighbours.

Reflection from Fr. Novie - Sabbatical in Rome

The Sabbatical Program in Rome has been a truly fruitful experience. During my first week, it felt as if I were back in the seminary again. After ten years of priesthood (my real anniversary was last Thursday, October 23), I found myself returning to a structured routine — waking up for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. For those who know me, I'm not usually a breakfast person, but here, it's part of community life!

Our days begin with Mass with all the priests, followed by classes and formation activities. Living in community requires some adjustment, but it's a blessing to share this journey with fellow priests who have served in various parts of the world.

Listening to their stories, experiences, and challenges has been very enriching. It's comforting to realize how much we share in common, despite our different backgrounds.

This leads me to one reflection: the universality of the Church. The Catholic Church is truly universal. What we celebrate in our Masses is the same in America, Japan, or Rome. The language or culture may differ slightly, but the essence of our worship and faith remains the same — one Church, united in Christ.

Another interesting aspect here is the culture around meals. At lunchtime, we join the seminary community at the Pontifical North American College. Wine is always served, we begin with prayer, and then enjoy several courses — starting with a salad and bread. I'm not sure if it's a typical Italian thing, but we can also dip the bread in olive oil with a little balsamic vinegar and, if we like, add some cheese. I just follow what they do! Then comes the pasta or risotto (I think I've tasted more kinds of pasta in four weeks than in my entire life!), followed by the main course of meat and vegetables, and finally dessert. We are truly well-fed here — both physically and spiritually!

Last week was my final week in Rome. We visited churches and pilgrimage sites as part of our focus on the Year of Jubilee.

Now, I'm taking a short break with my family in Cebu, Philippines, before heading to my parish experience in the northern part of the Philippines, in Pampanga. Please continue to keep me in your prayers, as I keep all of you in mine.



Thank you for your generosity in helping the Retired Priest Fund, we sent off \$1025.00 last week, plus \$690.00 in CC bequeaths.

If you would like a copy of **Next Years** God's Word please let Marianne know ASAP.

November Mass envelopes are now available at the ends of the pews and at the Church entrances. You may place them in the collection bags. Marianne will collate these throughout the month of November and include all the names and intentions in the newsletters at the end of the month. Fr Novie

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

25th & 26th October 2025

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell, Dominic Karunanayke, Nick Lee

9.30am: Julie Moyle, Kerry McLoughlan, Noela Boyer

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Chris Lee, Natasha Tauro

9.30am: Bebher Mitchell, Kenn Liwanag

Prayers of the Faithful: Terry McKiterick

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 25th

Elaine Roberts, Tania Dixon, Holly Morris

Setting up the Church: 25th Rose Quinn

Setting up the Church: 26th Julie Moyle

Baptism Preparation: Bec Lloyd

Counters: 28th Pat Whyte, Adrian Costello

Hospital Visiting: 27th Noela Boyer

Gardening: Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

1st & 2nd November 2025

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Tania Dixon, Peter Phillips, Carol Purdon

9.30am: Noela Boyer, Jenny Morris, Julie Moyle

Ministers of the Eucharist:

6.00pm: Kim Wallace, Allison McKiterick

9.30am: Cecilia Merrigan, Margaret Hart

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 1st

Cecilia Merrigan, Barb Green, Kerry McLoughlan

Setting up the Church: 1st Christine Sebire

Setting up the Church: 2nd Noela Boyer

Baptism Preparation: Mary Byrne

Counters: 4th Eileen Pineo & Lois Williams

Hospital Visiting: 3rd Karla Chisholm

Gardening: Doug Black & Ray Lewis

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: David Baker, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, Chloris Dignan, Caroline Farley, Fred Molluso, Murray Perrett, Meredith Ryan (Maddick), Bruce Haines, Maureen McKenner, Lenny Reid, Alistair Corman, Frank Slattery, Elizabeth Kyne (Weekly), Patricia Vogeles, Meaghan Broom (Byrne), Maurice O'Connor, Ian Phillips, Antonia Molluso, June Williams, Carmel Murphy, Judy Clark

Anniversaries: Stanley Walsh, Kevin Bridges, Harold Oliver, Peter Hervey, Helen Scarfo, Margaret Henwood, Stella Moore and Geraldine Shannon.

Recently Deceased: Daisy Catarata, Jarvie Bryan Jarlego

***If you have an addition to our overall prayer list or require someone to be removed from our sick list please email admin.*

First Reading*Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19***A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus**

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable, nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23***R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress. **R.**

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**

**Second Reading***2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18***A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy**

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me - may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*2 Corinthians 5:19***Alleluia, alleluia!**

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!**Gospel***Luke 18:9-14***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next week:

All Saints Day. Year C
1st November 2025

1st Reading: Apocalypse 7: 2-4, 9-14
Responsorial Psalm: 23:1-6
2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Next week:

All Souls Day. Year C
2nd November 2025

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9
Responsorial Psalm: 22
2nd Reading: Romans 5:5-11
Gospel: Luke 7:11-17